



NEW BRITAIN - BRISTOL TASK FORCE HOME INVASION / CREDIT UNION ROBBERY



DATE: February 24, 2015

The investigation into a complex bank robbery scheme continued throughout the night and remains active. Upon direction of the New Britain State's Attorney's Office a task force consisting of the New Britain Police Department and the Bristol Police Department has been established. Both agencies have enlisted assistance from the FBI and CT State Police to aid in the investigation.

The Task Force is releasing limited information as this is an ongoing investigation. Certain details have already been reported by media sources and this press release will serve to confirm some of which has been reported.

Initial Police Notification: On February 23, 2015 the Bristol Police Department received a call from an official of the Achieve Credit Financial Union stating that one of their employees, Matthew Yussman, age 46, was currently being forced to wear an explosive device as a way to obtain money from the Credit Union.

Preliminary Investigation: During the subsequent investigation it was learned that this event began in the early morning hours when two men confronted the victim when he arrived home at 133 Lufkin Lane in Bristol. The victim and his mother were bound and held in the home overnight. The victim was sent out to the Credit Union after daylight with a device affixed to his body. Based on statements from the suspects and the appearance of the device, the victim believed this to be an explosive device.

Once the victim arrived at the New Britain branch of the Achieve Financial Credit Union he contacted the Credit Union Official who eventually contacted police. That device was eventually rendered safe by the Connecticut State Police Bomb Squad and turned over to the FBI for laboratory analysis. The car that Mr. Yussman had driven to New Britain on the morning of February 23 was seized by the New Britain Police Department and will be processed for evidence by detectives pursuant to the issued search warrant.

Late Monday night the Bristol Police Department executed a search warrant at 133 Lufkin Lane to identify and collect any relevant evidence of the incident.

Injury Report: The victim was treated for exposure after being in the unheated car while the device was removed. He did not have any other injuries. The victim's mother was not injured and did not require medical care.



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Suspect information:

Two adult males were reported to have been involved in the Bristol Home Invasion which subsequently led to the bomb incident and the attempted bank robbery. At least one of the males is white and of medium build. Both males spoke fluent English. Both males were reported to have distinct accents that were not consistent with being native to Connecticut. The males are reported to have been dressed in dark clothing wearing ski-masks and ski goggles. A possible vehicle identified is an older model white four door Mazda.

This vehicle and suspects were believed to be in the Tunxis Mead and the area of route 10 in Farmington during the morning of February 23, 2015. Any person who may have seen this vehicle or had security cameras that face the roadways are asked to call the New Britain Police or Bristol Police Departments.

Anyone who may have seen any activity in the Lufkin Lane neighborhood late Sunday night into Monday morning is asked to call the Bristol Police Department.

The investigation is continuing at this time with numerous investigators assigned.

Anyone with information relating to these events is asked to contact:

New Britain Police Department at 860-826-3131, the Tip Line at 860-826-3199, or on line at newbritainpolice.org.

Bristol Police Department at 860-314-4570.

Authorized: Chief James Wardwell New Britain Police Department

Captain Brian Gould Bristol Police Department



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